



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Minutes the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **28 September 2023**, commencing at 12 Noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

It has been customary practice in the interests of a productive meeting in relation to the Conduct of Members during debates for the Council suspend Standing Orders 8.2 (Limitation on Number of speeches) and 8.3 (Duration of Speeches) under Local Law 2001. To facilitate this, the following recommended resolution is required.

Recommendation

That the following Local Law-Standing Orders 2001 be stood down:

- 8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches
- 8.3 Duration of speeches

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That the following Local Law-Standing Orders 2001 be stood down:

- 8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches
- 8.3 Duration of speeches

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------|---|----------------|---|
| Carried | For | 4 | Against | 0 |
|----------------|------------|---|----------------|---|

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26 October 2023

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the starting time for the October Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 26 October 2023 be amended to commence at 10.00am.

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------|---|----------------|---|
| Carried | For | 4 | Against | 0 |
|----------------|------------|---|----------------|---|

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

17.1.1 Account Listings Paid since the last list was presented to Council.

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The Shire President

- ~ advised that he attended along with Cr E Foulkes-Taylor, the Official Opening of the relocated Shearing Shed Mess from the old Wooleen Shearers quarters and redevelopment into a café / tourism operation at Wooleen Station on 26 September 2023 and offered congratulations to the current Wooleen Family Business on such a successful achievement.
- ~ Congratulated all those involved in organising a successful Community Picnic on Friday 8 September 2023 to celebrate the completed sealing of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between the Murchison Settlement and our Southern Shire Boundary.

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

Audit Entrance Meeting

Attended the 2023 Audit Entrance Meeting on 27 September 2023 remotely via Teams and Telephone with Armada Audit, Auditor General Representative, Chief Executive Officer and Travis Bate Financial Accountant (RSM)

14.2 Councillors

Cr G Mead

WALGA Local Government Convention 2023

Cr Mead thanked Council for having the opportunity to attend the WALGA Local Government Convention 2023. Report as follows.

Premier Roger Cook

Premier Cook opened the WALGA convention with some big announcements.

1.3 billion dollars for roads over 5 years also millions for infrastructure for Main Roads initiatives and more Aboriginal procurement for road building and construction.

Dominic Thurbon

Business Disruption Behavioural Change and Transformation Expert

Dominic takes an interesting look at the way things are generally done. Putting a fair spin on things like general estimations showing how inaccurate they often are. Also, about people challenging assumptions like why we do it like that? and why have we always done it this way?

He had quite a few funny but realistic examples.

Ruth Callahan

AI Expert

Ruth talked about GPT which is an AI app that most would have heard of. A lot of people are now using this as tool to save time and be more creative with all types of industry. There are some governments that encourage the use of this App while others have made it, so you need permission or a permit to use and then you have governments which have completely banned the use of it in any part of their undertaking of governance works. AI has scope for self-improvement, and nobody knows just how much it can learn or exactly what it could be capable of.

WALGA AGM

The AGM was interesting with a few hot topics but the main topic being about State Council amendments. There were some good arguments put forward for the change of the current governance model however it was lost. I believe this to be a good outcome. The proposed amendments to WALGA's constitution were also lost this was from a lack of special majority. (not enough people voted).

Regional Housing Forum

I found this to be a pretty hot topic there are Local councils investing in land and housing to help Combat the housing shortage. A few shires councils have partnered up with other shires to develop some large areas for sale with only a house needed. Other shires have actually done the whole job by buying the land already developed then dropping or building a house on it. Sounded like a positive way to deal with a problem while maybe even keeping rate rises to a minimum if managed right.

Energy Forum

The energy forum was informative but was structured more around mains power systems however still some ideas that can be taken from this. Also, another interesting thing WALGA has partnered up with Synergy on some projects with some grants being a possibility.

Thank you to Council for allowing me to attend the WALGA Convention.

Any extra information you're interested in feel free to ask.

Solar Interactive Tourism Information Bays

Cr Mead provided councillors a presentation on potential Solar Interactive Tourism Information Bays prior to the meeting.

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

26.09.23

Attended with Cr R Foulkes-Taylor the Official Opening of the relocated Wooleen Station Shed and redevelopment into a café / tourism operation at Wooleen Station on 26 September 2023.

3 10.23

Foreshadowed meeting of the GeoRegion Subgroup in Mt Magnet.

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 September 2023
Attachments: 16.1.1 2022-23 SKA Works Summary

Construction Crew

The Construction crew continue steadily, the next section was opened up on Tuesday 19 September starting from the grid just south of the Billabalong entrance. (SLK 218.48) Final prep work for the stabilizing is scheduled to begin when the Landor traffic has once again headed south. It is hoped the stabilizing will be completed by late November with sealing to commence as soon thereafter as possible.

Maintenance Crew

The maintenance crew should reach the north boundary on the Carnarvon- Mullewa Rd. by 26 or 27 September, they will then turn and patch grade some sections on the way south behind the Landor traffic as well as picking up batters and drains. Byro-Woodleigh Rd., Muggon Rd. and Butchers Track will also be picked up as they head south.

Caravan Park Ablution Block

At the last Council Meeting tender for the construction of an Ablutions Block at the Murchison Caravan Park. Tenders was awarded to MI Global. CEO Bill, Lisa, Warren and Olive together with myself met with two representatives from MI Global Construction for an onsite meeting. We, the Shire management team have a few loose ends to tie up with regard to exact location and some specs, mainly regarding the septic and plumbing. The build should commence in the next month or so and if all goes according to plan they should have made a start onsite by about end of March 2024.

SKA Road Upgrade Works

Walladar have started on their next section around the 10 M mine site entrance. Due to availability and quality of material they will move north a bit and haul the material a little further than would be ideal to begin with. The positives are the quality of the material and as they progress, they get closer to the stockpile.

Squires Resources are still busy on the Boolardy-Wooleen Rd. and still need to complete the section on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. This package has had a considerable amount of floodway and drainage correction, which has taken some time.

Summary of works undertaken on the SKA Routes in 2022/23 is attached.

Main Roads WA Funding

As previously advised, we have put forward 4 projects (the maximum) for reconstruction and widening sections of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road as part of 2024/25 Road Project Grant submission(s) as well as and an updated Three-Year Works Program. Each project cost is \$450,000 with a \$300,000 grant. The Technical Working Group are scheduled to meet on 4 October 2023 with recommendations to go to each respective Subgroup shortly thereafter.

Update

Cr Whitmarsh advised that the Shire had successfully arranged water licences on Boolardy Station and that SKAO would fund some roadworks on the Boolardy-Kalli Road.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Carried

For 4

Against 0

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 September 2023
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 2023 (Elected Members Only)

Matter for Consideration

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 13* requires that if the local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, then the CEO is to prepare a list of accounts paid by the CEO for each month and present this to the next ordinary meeting of the Council after the list has been prepared and have this list recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

A list of payments presented in accordance with *Regulation 13* of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* made since the last report to Council is attached.

Strategic Implications

None

Policy Implications

None

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Nil

Recommendation

- 1 That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 2023 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 2023 and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Item to be Discussed behind closed doors

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 2023 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For 4

Against 0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.30pm

Motion to open the meeting to the public.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the meeting move out from behind closed doors.

Carried

For

4

Against

0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.33pm

Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 17.1.1

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 2023 and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Carried

For

4

Against

0

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 July 2023

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 September 2023
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report July 2023

Matter for Consideration

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 34 requires that local government report monthly and prescribes what is required to be reported. Council is required to consider and receipt the Monthly Financial Statements.

Comment

These statements are being presented to meet a statutory obligation to have each month's end and report presented within the following two months.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Reports showing year to date financial performance allow monitoring of actual expenditure, revenue and overall results against budget targets.

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 July 2023 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 July 2023 as attached.

Carried

For

4

Against

0

17.3 Financial Activity Statements 31 August 2023

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 September 2023
Attachments: 17.3.1 Monthly Management Financial Report August 2023

Matter for Consideration

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 34 requires that local government report monthly and prescribes what is required to be reported. Council is required to consider and receipt the Monthly Financial Statements.

Comment

These statements are being presented to meet a statutory obligation to have each month's end and report presented within the following two months.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Reports showing year to date financial performance allow monitoring of actual expenditure, revenue and overall results against budget targets.

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 August 2023 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 August 2023 as attached.

Carried

For

4

Against

0

17.4 2022/23 Audit Update - September 2023

File: 2.6
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 September 2023
Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Update Progress on the conduct of the external Audit for 2022/23.

Update

For the 2023 Audit the Auditor General has appointed Armada Audit to conduct the external audit on behalf of the Auditor General.

Armada Audit have provided a schedule that includes the following timetable.

- (a) Audit Entrance Meeting - 27 September 2023
- (b) Deadline for draft financial statements to be provided – 9 October 2023
- (c) Audit Field Work on Site - 23 to 27 October 2023
- (d) Audit Exit Meeting – 5 December 2023
- (e) Audit Report Issued – 8 December 2023
- (f) Council adoption of Financial Statements – 16 December 2023

Comment

Every endeavour will be made by management and staff to meet the Auditors Timetable, although from experience this may vary along the way.

In relation to point (b) the date suggested and agreed to is beyond the legislative requirement to provide this information to the Auditor by 30 September 2023 as required under *s6.4.3 of the Local Government Act 1995*. Whilst we were aiming to achieve this statutory deadline it was thought prudent to seek Ministerial Approval to request for an extension in time to submit the draft Annual Financial Report to the Auditor in line with the Auditors timetable. It is a requirement that any such request must be made prior to the 30 September 2023.

This aspect is not unusual and has been a regular feature over a number of years and merely reflects the number of resources available and time commitments associated with the tasks. In any event when a request has been made the required documents have been provided within any amended deadline.

Accordingly, an application was made on 21 September 2023. Amongst other things the following reasons were provided.

- ~ RSM has been engaged to prepare financial statements from as part of their engagement role with Council. From preparation of July and August 2023 Financial Statements, it is evident that there are some matters which will need to be addressed in the FY23 AFS.
- ~ Unforeseen delays due to public holiday on 25 September 2023 impacting on our workflows.
- ~ Issues related to 2024 rates requiring attention.

Consultation

RSM Australia, Armada Audit

Recommendation

That Council note the 2022/23 Audit Update Report - September 2023

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That Council note the 2022/23 Audit Update Report - September 2023

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------|---|----------------|---|
| Carried | For | 4 | Against | 0 |
|----------------|------------|---|----------------|---|

18 DEVELOPMENT

Nil

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 2023 Election Update

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 23 September 2023

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Update Progress on the conduct of the 2023 Ordinary Elections

Update

As previously advised conduct of the Ordinary Council Elections was outsourced to the WA Election Commission who appointed Frances Pollock from Wooleen Station as Returning Officer.

At the close of nominations three nominations for the three vacancies were received. As a result the following persons were elected unopposed and will commence their 4 year term following being sworn in after the 21 October Election Date.

FOULKES-TAYLOR, Rossco
WHITMARSH, Andrew
FOWLER, Quentin

For Information

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 23 September 2023

Attachments: 20.1.1 Extract Murchison Settlement Power & Water Upgrade Project Business Case

General

The following update of activities is provided.

With respect to Grants Commission submission follow up work we have been advised that *“the Commission recognises the unique situation in regard to power generation in the Shire and has agreed to review the Special needs cost adjustor with the intent to uplift this. DLGSC will be completing some more analysis and calculations to present to the Commission at the next meeting, which should be in October. Any changes to the special needs cost adjustor would be applicable for the 2024/25 Financial Assistance Grants.”*

This was a result of additional information being provided to the Commission as part of the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Grants Commission returns relating to the costs of operating the Murchison Settlement which are well above other what other local governments would be responsible for, as we do not have a town nor any external utility provider.

Upon receipt of this advice additional updated information that formed part of the State Government Infrastructure Development Fund Application was also forwarded, as attached, as this included future water, power and housing works not just previous capital and operating costings.

| Date | Activity |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 28.08.2023 | General Administration |
| 28.08.2023 | Toolbox Meeting. Follow up post Council Meeting Actions |
| 29.08.2023 | Follow up post Council Meeting Actions. Skype Meeting with David Edgerton APV Valuers regarding Asset Management |
| 30.08.2023 | State Government Infrastructure Development Fund Application. |
| 31.08.2023 | State Government Infrastructure Development Fund Application. Telephone discussions with Karin Grima and Adam Murszewski (MWDC) |
| 1.09.2023 | Water & Power Pics. Infrastructure Development Fund Application. |
| 2.09.2023 to 4.09.2023 | Infrastructure Development Fund Application. |
| 5.09.2023 | Attend PIA School Council Meeting via Webex. Meetings with Shire President. Rossco and Works Manager. Administration work |
| 6.09.2023 | Administration Work. Audit Response Work. Carnarvon- Mullewa Road Opening Work. Fuel Review Work |
| 7.09.2023 | Touch base with Works Manager & Senior Works Finance Admin Officer. Fuel Review Work. Admin |
| 8.09.2023 | Administration. Carnarvon-Mull Road Opening & Picnic. |
| 11.09.2023 | TOIL. Arrange tyre changeover on vehicle. Follow up emails |
| 12.09.2023 | TOIL. Follow up emails. Grants Commission submission follow up. Fuel Review. |
| 13.09.2023 | TOIL. Deliver and pick up car from service. Follow up emails. Audit Review Work. |
| 14.09.2023 | Annual Leave |
| 15.09.2023 | Annual Leave |
| 18.09.2023 | Admin & Emails. Low Traffic Volume Road Expense Survey. |
| 19.09.2023 | Admin & Emails. Audit Work |
| 20.09.2023 | Site Meeting at Ablution Block with MI Global. Audit Work. MRWA RRG Submission follow up |
| 21.09.2023 to 22.09.2023 | 2023 Roads to Recovery Own Source & WALGA Road Expenses Return. Asset Management Plan Update. DLGRC Webinar |
| 23.09.2023 to 24.09.2023 | Agenda Work |
| 25.09.2023 | Public Holiday |

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO’s Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

| | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Council Decision | | | |
| Moved: Cr | E Foulkes-Taylor | Seconded: Cr | A Whitmarsh |
| That Council note the CEO’s Activity Report. | | | |
| Carried | For | 4 | Against 0 |

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance (SRPA) Pastoral Industry Forum,

The Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance (SRPA), who is committed to supporting sustainable pastoral production and diversification in the southern half of Western Australia has provided an invitation to Council to attend their annual Pastoral Industry Forum which will be held this year in Mt Magnet on 12 October 2023 and indicated that they would be delighted if a Council representative could attend. The forum will bring together stakeholders, policymakers, industry leaders and technology experts to discuss critical issues, share insights, and explore avenues for collaboration aimed at elevating the pastoral industry.

Council discussed the invitation, and it was agreed that it would be open to any councillor to attend and represent Council if they were available.

The Shire President closed the meeting at 12.52pm.

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 26 October 2023

Signed..... Presiding Officer